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MEA's **Community Windswept Program** will support approved community wind projects by raising the *Windswept* cap from \$100,000 to \$1,200,000 for selected projects, while preserving the 50% maximum MEA cost-share.

County and municipal projects often struggle to take advantage of federal tax incentives, as they generally have no federal tax burden. Moreover, *Windswept* grants generally fall far short of the scale necessary to incentivize community-scale projects. Finally, community projects starting development now are unlikely to be able to meet the end-of-year deadline for federal tax incentives even if they are able to find tax equity partners. Raising cap on *Windswept* for selected projects will enable communities to move forward with wind project development while preserving MEA's cost-share cap and leverage goals

#### **Key Factors of *Community Windswept Accelerator Program***

- The program expansion will serve community projects.
- MEA does not currently plan to have a deadline for applications to this program.
- The initial round of funding will be on a first-come, first serve basis.
- MEA will not have any feasibility study requirements associated with this grant funding, however feasibility studies will add to the favorability of a project viability determination in the evaluation process.
- Windswept grants can be bundled with other incentives; however Windswept will not pay more than 50% of grantee's net cost after those incentives.
- The grants will be non-competitive, provided the applications demonstrate a truly viable project which can be fully encumbered prior to June 15, 2014.
- Projects receiving a grant commitment letter must complete construction prior to June 15, 2015.
- The grant review committee will comprise of MEA staff.
- Eligible projects must use turbines that have strong performance and reliability records and projects using turbines that are certified by ITAC, SWCC, or NYSERDA-eligible will have preference.
- Only net-metering projects will be considered for this opportunity.